

# No Goals, But Town Gain A Vital Point

*By Chiltern*

**BLACKBURN ROVERS 0 LUTON TOWN 0**

For the twelfth time this season the Town defence did not concede a goal, and also for the twelfth time, the forwards failed to score, which brought about the Town's seventh goalless draw of the season.

With it came a most valuable point from Ewood Park, and nearly all the credit going to a gallant defence, which showed a tremendous amount of fighting spirit.

The defence had a hammering time in the first half when, with the wind behind them, the Rovers had far more of the play.

During this time it was well that Cooke, Owen and Aherne stood firm, and that Hughes showed brilliant anticipation in goal.

Had it not been for this and the weakness of the Rovers' forwards in front of goal, the Town would have faced a very uphill battle in the second half.

Luck was with them when Holt crashed a free kick against the post, with Hughes, unsighted by the crowd of players, unable to move towards the ball.

Apart from that incident, the goalkeeper was equal to everything that came his way and the Town came through a difficult first half without having caused the Rovers' defence much trouble, but still on level terms. In the second half more was

seen of the Town forwards, and Jinks missed a chance early on.

Territorially, play was still in Blackburn's favour, but with the wing halves more occupied with defensive matters than they had been in the first half, they were deprived of their most able marksmen.

Apart from Graham, their forwards were not particularly dangerous, and the Town defence was very much on top of their job in the second half.

The one really narrow escape was from a shot by Graham which looked likely to cross the line with Moore racing up to make sure. Owen, however, hooked the ball away, and despite the Rovers' appeals, the referee refused to award a goal.

Meanwhile, the Town had been dangerous on several occasions, but never more so than in the last minute when Stobbart headed inches over from a centre by Wyldes.

The game itself looked what it was — a struggle for vital points between two desperate teams—and that factor combined with the light ball meant that the quality of football suffered.

Owen again played a great part for the Town and his subjection of Moore meant a disappointing first home appearance for the Rovers' new centre-forward, who completed an unhappy day by fracturing his nose in the incident when Owen cleared off the goal line.

Always cool and collected, Owen stood out in defence, and was splendidly backed up by Cooke and Aherne, both of whom the the better of tussles with their opposing wingers.

## **FINE UNDERSTANDING HERE**

There was fine understanding between these three, and behind them was Hughes, decisive and confident in everything he did and deservedly gaining applause from the crowd for his fine judgment and handling of the ball.

Neither Watkins nor Shanks got a grip on things during the first half, but they did better later, and Watkins in particular played strongly and well in the second half.

Shanks was opposed to Rovers' most dangerous forward in Graham, and he found him something of a handful.

The forwards did not see a lot of the ball in the first half, and when they did they were unable to make much progress. Result was that Patterson's task before the interval was simple, and relatively few shots reached him.

After the interval, there was more cohesion in the line which, however, still lacked power in front of goal, otherwise they might have snatched the lead in the closing stages.

Finishing of both attacks was below par, and it was not all due to the stranglehold which defences mostly held.

The right wing was the better balanced, with Glover causing Eckersley quite a lot of trouble, but not always using the ball to the best advantage, and Kiernan coming into his own after a disappointing first half, and making some good openings.

Jinks had not the best of support, but he lacked dash and finishing power, and was seldom a potential goal-scorer. On the other hand, Stobbart always looked as if he might do something in this direction, but, somehow never found things coming off for him.

Wyldes found himself at a disadvantage against the experienced, hard-tackling Gray, and had a very moderate match.

**Blackburn Rovers:** Patterson; Gray, Eckersley; Campbell, Holt, Bell; McCaig, Graham, Moore, Lorton, Edds.

**Luton Town:** Hughes; Cooke, Aherne; Watkins, Owen, Shanks; Glover, Kiernan, Jinks, Stobbart, Wyldes.

**Referee:** G. Salmon, Stoke-on-Trent.